(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s Contech Devices has filed a complaint against Cipla; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Levonorgistrel is a contraceptive hormone which was used along with Ethylestradiol as oral contraceptive pill. Levonorgistrel is a very old and established drug which also has Pharmacopoeial monograph in Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) and other Pharmacopoeias like BP, USP etc. In September, 2001 the use of Levonorgistrel (0.75 mg strength) has been approved as an emergency contraceptive for manufacture and import in the country. However, since this use is a new indication, the product would fall within the definition of new drug under Rule 122-E of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Permission for New Drugs should be given by office of DCG(I).

It is understood that the licence for marketing has been granted by State Drug Controller of Maharashtra. M/s Cipla Ltd., has therefore, been directed to obtain permission from the office of the DCG(I) after depositing the required fee and other documents.

Office of DCG(I) has not received any complaint from M/s Contech Devices against M/s Cipla Ltd. about marketing of Levonorge without DCG(I)'s approval.

Flats for slum dwellers in Delhi

*269. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to construct flats for the slum dwellers in Delhi free of cost;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented and the total cost involved;

(d) whether this scheme is already existing in Mumbai; and

(e) if so, whether this is proposed to be extended to other metro cities also?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Question does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Foeticide cases in the country

†*273. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the constant increase in foeticide in the country in the recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of foeticide cases brought to Government's notice during the year 2002 in comparison to the year 2001; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to stop foeticide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No specific data is available on female foeticide as parties resort to this practice secretly in connivance with each other. The decrease in sex ratio from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001, in the age group of 0-6 years, leads to the conclusion that female foeticide could be one of the factors for the decline.

To check the practice of female foeticide on account of sex selection, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 was brought into operation from 1st January, 1996. This Act prohibits determination and disclosure of sex of the foetus. The Act also prescribes punishments for contravening its provisions with imprisonment upto 5 years and fine upto Rs. 50,000.

Since the PNDT Act did not cover pre-conception selection and in order to ensure a more effective implementation of the Act, amendments have been placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 25.7.2002. Broadly, the amendments seek to:

(i) bring the technique of pre-conception sex selection within the ambit of this Act to pre-empt its misuse;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.